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SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—" சீக்கிரம் ரிப்போர்ட்டை வாங்கி, அதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா ?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" ரிப்போர்ட் கேட்டிருக்கிறோம். அதற்குப் பிறகு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுப்பது பற்றி ஆலோசிக்கப்படும்."

Diversion of buses run by private operators in the mufassal for Avadi Session.

* 241 *Q.*—SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether any of the buses run by private operators in the mufassal were diverted from their usual routes in connection with the Avadi Session of the Indian National Congress and, if so, how many and from which districts?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" 203 buses run by private operators in the mufassal were diverted from their usual routes to provide transport facilities between Madras and Avadi in connexion with the All-India Congress Session held at Avadi in January 1955. The buses were diverted from routes in Salem, Tanjore, North Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore and South Arcot districts."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" Was it done by Government orders? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir. The Transport Commissioner took the initiative. There was no need for Government orders."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" Is it not necessary when buses are taken off the road, the Regional Transport Authority should be consulted and permission obtained before buses are taken off the road."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Temporary permits and short-term licences were given."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" Were they given by the respective Regional Transport Authorities or did the Government themselves move in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" When I say ' Government ', it includes the Regional Transport Authority, the Transport Commissioner and everybody else."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Is it not a fact that many people came from different districts to Madras City for the purpose of seeing the Avadi Session and that, therefore, the Transport authorities had to see that all available buses were made available to them so that the visiting public might not be inconvenienced? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Exactly so."

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Sri K. BHASHYAM :—" Is it not a fact that only spare buses were brought here so as not to interfere with the ordinary traffic in the mufassal? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Spare buses were utilized wherever available and normal traffic was not in any way interfered with. The arrangement was not at all detrimental to the interests of the travelling public."

Number of Municipalities in this State

* 242 *Q.*—Sri V. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of municipalities in the State and the number of first-grade and second-grade municipalities;

(*b*) when the term of the present municipal councils expires; and

(*c*) whether some of them have requested the Government to extend their term?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" (*a*) The total number of municipalities in the State is 61. The number of first-grade municipalities is 14 and that of second grade, is 18.

" (*b*) The term of office of the present municipal councillors will expire on the noon of 1st November 1955.

" (*c*) Yes, Sir."

Sri S. P. SIVASUBRAMANYA NADAR :—" Is there any proposal to extend the term of the present members? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" No, Sir."

Sri V. V. RAMASWAMI :—" சென்ற ஆண்டிலே ஜில்லா போர்டுத் தேர்தல்கள் நடந்திருக்கின்றன. இந்த ஆண்டு இறுதிலேயும் நகர மன்ற ஆட்சித் தேர்தல்கள் நடைபெற இருக்கின்றன. அடுத்த ஆண்டிலேயும் பொதுத் தேர்தல் நடைபெறலாம். இப்படி ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டிலும், எதாவது தேர்தல்கள் நடந்துகொண்டிருப்பதால் மக்களிடையே ஒரு விதமான விருப்பு வெறுப்பும், குழப்பங்களும் எற்படுகின்றன. ஆகவே எல்லாத் தேர்தல்களையும் ஒரே ஆண்டிலேயே வைப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஆலோசிப்பார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" ஒரே ஆண்டில் வைத்தால் ஒரே குழப்பமாக இருக்கும். ஆகையால் அவ்வப்போது வைத்துக்கொள்வதே நலமாக இருக்குமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். "